

	Origination Date:	02/17/2014
	Last Approved Date:	11/18/2020
	Last Revised Date:	11/18/2020
	Next Review Date:	11/18/2022
Owner: Transfusion Service Supervisor		
Procedure Area: Lab – Blood Bank		
Procedure Group: Laboratory		
Performed by:	Medical Technologists, Medical Lab Technicians	
Manual:	Manual I: Pretransfusion Testing and Crossmatch	
<b>Critical Values (6334)</b>		

**I. PURPOSE**

To define a policy for handling critical values.

**II. PRINCIPLE**

Critical values in the blood bank reflect significant unexpected test results or other unusual events that could be life-threatening if treatment is not instituted immediately. These values must be quickly communicated to the caregiver.

**III. POLICY**

It is the policy of Piedmont Athens Regional Laboratory that critical values will be promptly called to the patient’s licensed caregiver who will then communicate the results to the physician.

**IV. PROCEDURE**

1. Critical Values/Situations in the blood bank:
  - Acute hemolysis noted during a transfusion reaction investigation
  - Incompatibility of an emergency issued red blood cell unit
  - Positive DAT on a neonate
  - Notification from supplier of a bacterially contaminated product
  - Positive antibody screen that will result in a delay of compatible blood products for transfusion
  - Products prepared necessitating an Exceptional Release of Blood Products form
  - For Hemolytic Disease of Fetus and Newborn (HDFN) monitoring critical titer for Anti-D is  $\geq 16$  and Anti- K is  $\geq 8$ .
2. Phone the appropriate nursing unit and ask to speak to the licensed caregiver for the patient (ex. RN).
3. Inform the caregiver that you are calling with a RAV critical result and request his/her name and title.
4. Report the critical result(s) and request read back of the result.
5. Add a comment in HCLL to the test with a critical result.
  - On the test worksheet click comment from the bottom of the form.
  - Add comment RAV: Critical Results Read Back and Verified
  - Add a free text comment to document the name/title of caregiver and the date/time the critical was called. (ex. B. Smith, RN 10/13/17 @ 0945)
  - Set the comment to be external by entering E in the I/E field.
  - Verify, Save, and Close.

## V. REFERENCES

- Technical Manual. American Association of Blood Banks. Twentieth Edition, 2020. Bethesda MD. Pages 659 – 668.
- Mediware HCLL User Guide. Version 2018 Mediware Information System, Inc. Irving Texas, 2018.

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